

Ephemeral-Audubon Society

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

OLDEST CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE
FOUNDED 1900 AT MAITLAND



ROLLINS COLLEGE
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1949

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

(Unless otherwise indicated, all programs will be held
in the Annie Russell Theatre, Rollins College, Winter
Park, Florida, and are open to the public without charge.)

FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1949

8:30 P.M.—Conference on Conservation. Dyer Memorial Building. Professor H. S. Newins presiding. Representatives of all conservation groups are invited to join members of the Florida Audubon Society for a discussion of the state's conservation problems and an analysis of the Society's programs.

EXHIBITION OF PRINTS AND LITHOGRAPHS

Throughout the annual meeting of the Florida Audubon Society, Victoria Hutson Huntley, Painter and Print Maker, will exhibit in the lobby of the Annie Russell Theatre a collection of new prints and lithographs which she will show May 1 at the Kennedy Gallery in New York.

This collection consists of prints of roseate spoonbills and lithographs of the Lake Cuthbert Rookery in the Everglades, of Florida deer, of shore birds at Long Boat Key near Sarasota and also lithographs of white ibis, water turkey, Louisiana heron and American egrets. There will also be included lotus and other flowers and vegetation of the South Carolina swamp country.

In the exhibition will be a new series of lithographs of Florida swamp birds and two lithographs of the saw-grass country in the Everglades showing characteristic birds.

This exhibition represents some of the achievements of this noted artist as the holder of a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, awarded for creative work in graphic art in Florida.

Two of the lithographs have been purchased by the Library of Congress. Duplicate prints will be available for purchase, a percentage of which Mrs. Huntley will donate to the Florida Audubon Society.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1949

- 7:00 A.M.—Bird Hike. From the arcade of the Annie Russell Theatre to the Mead Botanical Garden. Leader: Dr. C. E. Mounts, University of Florida.
- 9:30 A.M.—(and throughout the day). Registration. Lobby of the Annie Russell Theatre. Mrs. Minter J. Westfall, Jr., in charge, assisted by members of the Local Arrangements Committee.
- 9:30 A.M.—Annual meeting of the Executive Committee. Green Room of the Annie Russell Theatre. In addition to officers of the Society and members of the Executive Committee, all official representatives of affiliated groups are invited to participate in the proceedings.
- 10:00 A.M.—Special Program for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Annie Russell Theatre. Mrs. Howard A. MacDonald, Chairman. "Birds of Swamp and Shore," a motion picture in color with commentation by Professor Oliver P. Medsger. This film was photographed, edited and presented to the Florida Audubon Society by Mr. John H. Storer. It shows egrets and other water birds of Florida in their homes with many slow-motion pictures of the birds in flight.
- 10:30 A.M.—"What the Audubon Society can teach Scouts about Bird Study and Conservation," by Elbert K. Fretwell, Chief Scout, Boy Scouts of America.

11:00 A.M.—Forty-Ninth annual business meeting of the Florida Audubon Society.
Professor H. S. Newins, President, presiding.

Annual Reports of Officers of the Society

Annual Reports of Committees

Annual Reports of Florida Audubon Society Branches and other associated conservation groups: (2 minutes each)

Clearwater Branch

Clearwater Nature Club

Coconut Grove Audubon Society

Duval County Branch (Jacksonville)

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

Francis M. Weston Society of Natural History (Pensacola)

Halifax River Bird Club (Daytona Beach)

Miami Bird Club

Monroe County Audubon Society (Key West)

St. Petersburg Audubon Society

Tallahassee Bird Club

Tampa Bird Club

Tropical Audubon Society (Miami)

Orange County Branch (Winter Park)

Old Business

Election of officers

New Business

1:00 P.M.—Luncheon (cafeteria service). Rollins Center. Reservations accompanied by remittance of \$1.50 per plate, made payable to Audubon Luncheon, must be sent to Miss Judy Hudgings, c/o Beal-Maltbie Shell Museum, Winter Park, NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1.

2:00 P.M.—The "Living Earth" series of motion pictures. Annie Russell Theatre. Mr. John H. Storer presiding. These four motion pictures in color and with sound track present the basic principles of conservation of life-supporting natural resources and are especially designed for schools and colleges. They are as follows:

1. "The Birth of the Soil," telling of the steps in the natural development of top soil and its value to human life.
2. "This Vital Earth," dealing with the principles of ecology and the interdependence of all forms of life.
3. "The Arteries of Life," dealing with the role of forests in storing and controlling the flow of water and the dependence of all life upon water and upon the transportation of water by surface and underground flow.
4. "The Seeds of Destruction," showing how the effect of a single break in the chain of life may spread out to ruin entire communities and the responsibility of all users of natural resources to the community.

These films were photographed by John H. Storer for the Conservation Foundation of New York City.

3:00 P.M.—"Can We Afford To 'Get By' With Our State Parks?"
by Senator LeRoy Collins.

3:30 P.M.—"Fort Jefferson National Monument," a motion picture in color presented by the National Park Service with commentation by Mr. C. R. Vinten, Superintendent, Southeastern Areas.

In the first half of this film are included beautiful aerial and surface views of the Dry Tortugas Islands and intimate details of Fort Jefferson: Its remarkable brickwork and tiers of gunrooms as well as its long, mysterious corridors. The second half of the film shows the com-

plete life history of the sooty and noddy terns, including the spectacle of heavy tern concentrations during the nesting season on Bush Key (over 100,000 sooty terns nested on Bush Key last summer). Numerous man-of-war birds, roseate terns and chicks, birds in flight and shots of unique bird characteristics are also recorded. The film also shows marine scenes and life (crawfish, coral and fish in their native habitat). The Florida Audubon Society has, from time to time, conducted study tours of this important region.

5:00 to 7:00 P.M.—Buffet supper. "Hiawatha," Maitland, birthplace of the Florida Audubon Society. Hostess: Mrs. Reinhard Siedenburger. Reservations, accompanied by remittance of \$1.50 per person, made payable to AUDUBON SUPPER, must be sent to Mrs. John H. Storer, 440 Henkel Circle, Winter Park, by March 1. Proceeds to be devoted to the Endowment Fund.

Guests are invited to arrive at five o'clock in order to visit the spacious grounds of this, the Dommerich Estate, which is one of the oldest in this part of Florida and is probably the only one still maintained in its original form by members of the same family. Visitors will have an opportunity of seeing a garden typical of an earlier day.

8:15 P.M.—Evening session. "Creation," a motion picture in natural color. Annie Russell Theatre. Dr. Frederick L. Lewton presiding. This is the fourth in the series of five Screen Tours being presented jointly by the Orange County Branch of the Florida Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society. Commentation by Tom and Arlene Hadley.

Inspiration for this picture poem came when the Hadleys were caught in a forest fire which nearly destroyed their "Happy Valley" in the Michigan north woods. The real story is the transformation of smoldering ruins and blackened earth into a new era of growth and struggle—the renewal of life. The sun pours in, awakening new life, bringing new plants, animals and insects. The birds return: woodpeckers, hawks, nighthawks, thrushes and other songbirds. The white-tailed deer, possum, woodchuck, porcupine, spring peepers and dragonfly nymphs enter upon the scene as the black becomes covered more and more with green. The new order of growth unfolds and destruction is finally overcome—this is the message Tom and Arlene Hadley capture and convey.

Admission \$1.00 including tax.

FIELD TRIPS

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 1949

Ocklawaha River Boat Trips conducted by MR. W. L'E. BARNETT

8:30 A.M.—Leave Mt. Dora Yacht Club Pier; return at 6:30 P.M. Reservations, accompanied by remittance of \$3.50 per person, made payable to Mr. Barnett, must be sent to him at Mt. Dora, Florida, NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1. This fee includes coffee only; each person must provide his or her own luncheon. Birds likely to be seen: limpkin, purple gallinule, Florida crane, snowy egret, American egret, several species of heron and ducks, bald eagle, osprey, least and American bittern and others; also alligators. The three boats engaged for these trips are the *Silver Spray I*, the *Silver Spray II* and the *City of Dora*.

Note: If sufficient interest in a field trip by automobile is shown, arrangements for such will be made. Those who wish to participate in such a trip are asked to file their names at the Registration Desk on March 5 or consult with Mr. Jack Russell.

THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Florida is almost a paradise for birds. More than half the 800 species classified in North America have been observed in the State's numerous rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes, prairies and tidal lagoons. Nowhere else north of the Caribbean Sea are found such popular rookeries of pelicans, water turkeys, egrets, heron and ibis.

Yet, owing to man's invasion much of Florida's natural beauty and unique wildlife has disappeared within the past thirty years; moreover, large areas have been ruined with ruthless efficiency. The Florida Audubon Society is endeavoring to preserve what is left; its work is maintained and expanded by memberships and special gifts. Stress is placed on the protection of wildlife, on the economic value of birds and on nature and conservation studies in schools. The Society functions through movements to influence legislation, enrich public education, guard wildlife and support the conservation of natural resources. The Society's official publication is *The Florida Naturalist*, published quarterly.

OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY—1948-1949

President, PROFESSOR HAROLD S. NEWINS, Gainesville
Vice-President, MRS. REINHARD SIEDENBURG, Maitland
Secretary-Treasurer, DR. MINTER J. WESTFALL, JR., Gainesville

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MR. DANIEL B. BEARD, Homestead
MRS. F. B. CROWNINSHIELD, Boca Grande
MRS. EDWARD MOTT DAVIS, Winter Park
MR. R. J. LONGSTREET, Daytona Beach

DR. HERBERT R. MILLS, Tampa
MR. EUGENE E. SIMPSON, Mt. Dora
MISS LISA VON BOROWSKY, Brooksville
MRS. J. F. WERNICKE, Gull Point
MRS. MILLAR WILSON, Jacksonville

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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MRS. F. B. CROWNINSHIELD, Boca Grande
MR. R. J. LONGSTREET, Daytona Beach
MR. C. RUSSELL MASON, Boston
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MRS. J. F. WERNICKE, Gull Point
DR. MINTER J. WESTFALL, JR., Gainesville
MRS. A. L. WHIGHAM, Century
MRS. MILLAR WILSON, Jacksonville

This committee was organized in 1946 to work out an administrative plan whereby, in cooperation with other groups or agencies, the educational responsibilities of the Society could be enlarged and placed on a permanent basis. So far a total of \$2,881.61 has been contributed toward this objective, none of which will be expended until a practical proposal has been agreed upon.

SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE

Chairman, DR. CHARLES E. MOUNTS, Gainesville

PROF. STEPHEN L. BECKWITH, Gainesville
MR. J. C. DICKINSON, JR., Gainesville

DR. HERBERT R. MILLS, Tampa
MR. JACK C. RUSSELL, Sanford

1. Bivin's Arm Sanctuary near Gainesville. This project includes only a small acreage actually owned by the Society, but through the cooperation of landowners a warden's surveillance is maintained over a total area of some 3,000 acres of adjoining lands, including a large area owned by the University of Florida near its campus. Since 1937 the Society has employed a warden for the protection of rookeries in this Sanctuary. Through the generosity of many members and friends of the Society, comfortable living quarters have, within the past twelve months, been provided for the warden, replacing the unsightly shack in which he and his wife lived for many years. The total cost of this improvement was \$2,434.31.

At the same time that these physical improvements have been made, the fact remains that the splendid nesting colony of herons, egrets and ibis formerly to be found each spring on the north side of the lake has shifted, at least temporarily, to Lake Alice on the University property a mile and a half away. Ten thousand birds were estimated last year as nesting or roosting at the Lake Alice Rookery. There the birds appear adequately protected and even more accessible to the observation of bird-lovers than they were at the Arm.

2. Bird Island in Orange Lake, Alachua County. This preserve, consisting of the principal island in Orange Lake, extending over approximately 77 acres, is owned by the Society and guarded by the warden of Bivin's Arm Sanctuary. Making their homes here are American and snowy egrets, herons, ibis, anhingas and gallinules. It has been estimated that at least 8,000 birds have nested during a season in this unique Sanctuary.

THE EDWARD MOTT DAVIS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Chairman, MR. JOHN H. STORER, Winter Park

MRS. EDWARD MOTT DAVIS, Winter Park

MISS JUDY HUDGINGS, Winter Park

MISS HELEN STEINMETZ, Apopka

An outgrowth of the Society's World War II program was the Edward Mott Davis Memorial to continue the pioneer service rendered by the late Edward Mott Davis of Rollins College in the field of nature study.

This project consists of motion pictures in color and with sound which are distributed free of charge to the schools of Florida by the General Extension Division of the University of Florida with printed and mimeographed commentation notes and life-history notes of the birds shown in the films. The project includes also a collection of kodachrome slides. During the past year 462 showings of these films have been made to 28,859 persons, mostly school children of Florida.

Additions to this film library since the last annual meeting are as follows: two copies have been made from the film, "Birds of Swamp and Shore." This film was photographed by John H. Storer and its use made available by him to the Edward Mott Davis Collection. The two prints cost \$110.64. A second copy of "Birds of Inland Water Ways" has been purchased for \$90.00. The four films of the "Living Earth" series, produced by the Conservation Foundation, have been purchased from the distributors, Encyclopaedia Britannica Films Inc., for \$360.00.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman, DR. A. J. HANNA, Winter Park

MRS. F. B. CROWNSHIELD, Boca Grande

MR. F. E. LYKES, Brooksville

MRS. W. J. HOWEY, Howey-in-the-Hills

MRS. REINHARD SIEDENBURG, Maitland

The Florida Audubon Society is a corporation NOT FOR PROFIT. It insures the permanence of its efforts to strengthen American life by assembling funds, investing them and using the interest on these investments for the advancement of such vitally needed undertakings as are here outlined.

By assembling small funds over a long period, the Society possesses at present an Endowment Fund of \$6,567.65. Compared with the almost \$300,000 Endowment Fund possessed by the Massachusetts Audubon Society the Endowment Fund of the Florida Audubon Society is, indeed, modest and therefore merits the support of the public at large. Gifts of any amount may be made; if the donor wishes, a fund may be set up as a Memorial. It is ardently hoped that all members of the Society and many other friends of conservation will remember this Fund in their wills. ALL PATRON OR INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIPS of \$50 are devoted automatically to the Endowment Fund.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Chairman, MRS. JOHN H. STORER

MISS MADELEINE APPELEY

MRS. GLADYS HENDERSON

MISS LAURA NEVILLE

MRS. WILLIAM C. BOWERS

MRS. J. L. HOUSTON

MISS HELEN ROBINSON

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